

Inquiry among the conductors and passengers on the train brought out the facts. His wife, handsomely gowned for the theater, had boarded the train. Two men took seats behind her. They told the conductor that she was traveling with them and to pay no attention to her protestations when they paid her fare, as she was being taken to an asylum. She demanded to know what right they had to pay her fare, but they refused to talk to her and to explain her actions told the passengers the story they told the conductor. When the train reached the station the conductor saw the woman hurried away between the men. No one ever saw her again. Her husband has no doubt of her fate, nor can anyone question his belief.

And it is not the only incident

Why do I go into these facts? Because they are facts; because people must realize that not the minimum wage alone, but clean city government is necessary to protect the women of a city. Do not misunderstand me as underestimating the importance of the minimum wage crusade. As I said, it is vital.

But the greater independence of well paid working girls will drive the slavers to desperation to supply the demand; then the proper administration of law and the honest exercise of police power will be absolutely necessary to guard women from forcible slavery. Such administration of municipal government as is daily revealed in New York city we suffragists cannot condemn too severely.



Mrs. James Leo Laidlaw.